

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 SAJ-01

DODE-00 EA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 /074 W

----- 104687

R 121554" MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1136

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0993

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: FREETOWN 0707

1. RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR'S SCURRILOUS INTERVIEW IN LOCAL PAPER MAY 7 ALMOST CAUSED ALLIED BOYCOTT USSR RECEPTION NIGHT OF MAY 9. UK, FRENCH AND U.S. CHIEF OF MISSION WROTE IDENTICAL LETTERS TO USSR AMBASSADOR FILIPPOV INSISTING ON PRIOR WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT PUBLIC COMMENTS AT RECEPTION BE MORE ACCURATE. FILIPPOV SENT EACH COPY OF HIS PROPOSED REMARKS. JOINT ALLIED DECISION THAT REMARKS WERE NOT OBJECTIONABLE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY BOYCOTT LED TO OUR ATTENDANCE, ALTHOUGH WE LIMITED EMBASSY PRESENCE TO OURSELVES AND WIVES ONLY. ON ENTRY, EACH OF US COMMENTED ON SOVIET LOSSES, THE IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE, AND OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE ONE-SIDED NATURE OF ARTICLE.

2. AFTER TOAST, FILIPPOV CALLED ALLIED AMBASSADORS ASIDE AND MADE ACCURATE AND EVEN CONCILIATORY STATEMENTS ABOUT COOPERATION DURING WAR. HE WOULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY  
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SUCH STATEMENTS WERE NOT INCLUDED IN HIS PUBLIC INTERVIEW AND REFUSED TO AGREE TO PUBLISH MAY 8 BREZHNEV SPEECH LOCALLY AS DESIRED BY FRENCH COLLEAGUE, WHO THOUGHT PUBLISHING  
T WOULD CLEAR THE AIR.

3. MOST INFORMED LOCAL AND DIPLOMATIC REACTION (INCLUDING THAT OF PRC CHARGE WHO PRESENT AT RECEPTION) WAS TO LAUGH AT USSR FOR PUBLISHING SUCH A BIASED AND INACCURATE ACCOUNT OF HISTORY. GOSL SENT ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HARRY WILLIAMS BUT ABSOLUTELY NO ONE ELSE TO RECEPTION, AND WILLIAMS STAYED ONLY FOR BRIEF TIME AND CONSPICUOUSLY AVOIDED RESPONSE TO TOAST.

4. COPIES OF ARTICLE AND MY LETTER TO FILIPPOV BEING HAND-CARRIED TO AF/W FOR PASSING TO EUR/SOV. FILIPPOV'S RESPONSE AND TOAST BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SOV.

5. OTHER PROPOSED EVENTS (REFTEL) NEVER MATERIALIZED BUT AS I WAS LEAVING RECEPTION, FILIPPOV ASKED IF I WOULD STILL BE INTERESTED IN JOINT USSR, UK, FRENCH, US DINNER AS HE HAD EARLIER MENTIONED. I SAID I WOULD ATTEND SUCH A DINNER IF HE INVITED ME.  
SAMUELS

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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